

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments from the Office Action mailed June 23, 2008 have been carefully considered. Claims 1-4 and 6-13 remain pending in the application and claims 14-20 have been newly added. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claim 5 in a later filed continuation application. Editorial revisions have been made to claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, and 13. Support for these changes can be found throughout the specification and figures. No new matter has been added.

Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 7, 12, and 13 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7, 12, and 13 have been rewritten in independent form, with some editorial revisions, as new claims 18-20, respectively, including all of the features of base claim 1. Accordingly, new claims 18-20 are allowable.

Objections to the Drawings

Formal objection has been made to the drawings for omitting the tab and trough of claim 5. Without acquiescing to the objection, Applicants have canceled claim 5, thereby rendering the objection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 8, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,225,557 to Fonteneau et al. (hereinafter "Fonteneau"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part, a routing element configured to be selectively arranged in the lower part in either one of a first orientation and a second orientation, the second orientation being different from the first orientation.

Compare FIGS. 3 and 4 for one example embodiment of the first and second orientations of cable routing element 21.

Neither the admitted prior art nor Fonteneau disclose or suggest a routing element configured to be selectively arranged in the lower part in either one of a first orientation and a second orientation, the second orientation being different from the first orientation. Fonteneau does not even disclose arranging the disclosed connector casing in a wall outlet box. Furthermore, no reason is provided in Fonteneau or elsewhere to modify wall outlet boxes of the prior art to enable selective arrangement of cable routing elements in one of two orientations.

For at least these reasons, the admitted prior art would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 1, even in view of Fonteneau. Claims 8 and 11 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1, 8, and 11 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Fonteneau as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,773,296 to Kihara et al. (hereinafter "Kihara"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over the combination of the admitted prior art references and Fonteneau for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Kihara does not overcome the shortcomings of Fonteneau. Kihara also fails to disclose or suggest a routing element configured to be selectively arranged in the lower part in either one of a first orientation and a second orientation, the second orientation being different from the first orientation.

For at least these reasons, the admitted prior art would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claims 2-4, even in view of Fonteneau and Kihara. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 2-4 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Fonteneau as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,964,845 to Kawai et al. (hereinafter "Kawai"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 9 depends from claim 1 and is allowable over the combination of the admitted prior art references and Fonteneau for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Kawai does not overcome the shortcomings of Fonteneau. Kawai also fails to disclose or suggest a routing element configured to be selectively arranged in the lower part in either one of a first orientation and a second orientation, the second orientation being different from the first orientation.

For at least these reasons, the admitted prior art would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 9, even in view of Fonteneau and Kawai. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 9 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Fonteneau as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,272,148 to Knack, Jr. (hereinafter "Knack"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 10 depends from claim 1 and is allowable over the combination of the admitted prior art references and Fonteneau for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Knack does not overcome the shortcomings of Fonteneau. Knack also fails to disclose or suggest a routing element configured to be selectively arranged in the lower part in either one of a first orientation and a second orientation, the second orientation being different from the first orientation.

For at least these reasons, the admitted prior art would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 10, even in view of Fonteneau and Knack. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 10 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

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New Claims

New claims 14-20 have been newly added. Claims 14-17 depend from amended claim 1 and are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to amended claim 1.

Claims 18-20 incorporate all of the features of allowable claims 7, 12, and 13 including all of the features of base claim 1 as originally submitted. Accordingly, claims 18-20 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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